

KALAMAZOO BICYCLE CLUB NEWSLETTER APRIL 1977

MEETINGS:

RACE COMMITTEE MEETING. SATURDAY April 2 at 9 am. at 2803 Wellington(call 349-3094 for directions) . Major concern Publicilyt and posters.

EXECUTIVE BOARD April 14,(Thursday) 2301 Fairfiled Ave. 7 pm.

GENERAL MEETING April 18, 7 pm. in classroom section of Kalamazoo College Library. Agenda: Race report, 4 Lakes report, May ride schedule among other things.

Four Lakes Committee needs volunteers to work 4 hours at registration desk registering and lap counting. Call Jini Caruso 381-0135.

RIDE SCHEDULE IS THE LAST OF THE THREE BULE PAGES.

MEETING SUMMARY:

Treasurer reported a debt of \$80 incurred in mailing all the Four Lakes and Race Publicity. The expectation is that we will recoup the expense in out-of town turnout. Mailing also included calendar of big events, and Fall Century Preview. Members as of March 12 should have received the mailing. Terry Eldred never made it. We had about 40 guests who had come to here about the Kal-Haven Trail. President Joel Ginda and others answered questions about the club for the guests, add about the trail, as some had ridden in Wisconsin or been to other meetings about trails here in Michigan.

The April issue of the Kalamazoo Review will contain an article on club activities with special emphasis on the races. MARCH MADNESS had only four rider due to weather: (let Joel tell it,ed) "My day began with a phone call from Three Oaks, asking weather we planned to cancel. No I replied, so long as the weather,(drizzle) holds. if worse, well..."

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KALAMAZOO BICYCLE CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM 1977

Mem bership entitles person to newsletter by mail, distinctive club patch, mebership card, map, and reduced entry fees at specified club events. KBC meets the third Monday of every month at 7 pm in the classroom section of the Kalamazoo College Library, northwest corner of Academy and Thompson streets.

DUES: Check one . _____ Young Adult(under 15) \$2.00
_____ Adult (over 15)\$3.00
_____ Family (all members of a household) \$.500

Dues go up next month)

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ AGE _____ BIRTHDATE _____ SEX _____

NAMES & AGES OF OTHERS IF FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

OTHER MEMBERSHIPS: USCF _____ LAW _____ AYH _____ OTHER _____

SIGNATURE _____ PARENT _____
(if under 18)

Make checks payable to Kalamazoo Bicycle Club and mail to
KBC P O BOX 527 KALAMAZOO MI 49005.

"I pedalled to KVCC, getting soaked en route. Then, contrary to the prediction, and fortunately for the riders, the rain stopped, never to resume. Thereafter we enjoyed excellent weather, though rain threatened all day.

Four rode: Pat Florian, Dick Phillips, Duane Nieman (from Mt. Clemens!) and myself. Duane left a few minutes ahead of us, and was never seen again (though we got a report he'd stopped for food); the rest of us, after waiting futilely for the Three Oaks delegation, left shortly before eleven and (mostly) rode together. The tour was lovely (and as difficult) as remembered. We loafed it in five hours, with much conversation, in low gears without hurrying. You ought to have joined us."

SPRING VALLEY RACES: A REPORT

Progress could be called normal, but not spectacular. Local publicity is shaping up nicely. USCF publicity is excellent, which should help pay the insurance. (So should the fact we've the first two events on the state racing schedule.) All important arrangements have been made.

What remain are the nearly endless details — poster distribution, distribution of publicity brochures to local businesses, collection and preparation of materials necessary to conduct the races, course sweeping, and all sorts of race day jobs.

Publicity and Posters: Meeting on Saturday April 2, at 2803 Wellington (call 349-3094 for directions) at 9 am. There are a few decisions to be made, but mostly we'll be passing out publicity materials for distribution in town. RACERS MUST ATTEND, else make other arrangements: others interested are welcome.

Ultimately, the success of the series depends upon local support; that, in turn, requires strenuous effort to improve our publicity impact. We've not asked racers to recruit prizes, and we're not asking that they officiate. What we are asking is that racers help make the community aware of the series. We've shown we can promote bicycle races. This year's project is to make Kalamazoo aware of the sport and our event.

Last minute arrangements will be handled during and/or after the KBC general meeting Monday April 18. Interested members are urged to attend.

Course sweeping: Evenings of April 22 & 29 (Fridays) and May 14 & 21 (Saturdays), 7 pm; meet at the water tower, bring a broom. Also each race day at 8 am. Serious racers invest lots of money in tires; let's not cause unnecessary punctures. Unfortunately, Spring Valley Park's afflicted with broken bottles. Please help, as racers are more likely to return if they don't expect our races to cost them their \$25 tires.

Race day help: If you come to watch, volunteer to help. Basically two jobs need filling — course marshalls and finish line judges. Neither interferers with spectating, except that both restrict mobility. Marshalls are responsible to keep spectators out of the way of the racers. Finish line judges are responsible to help pick the finishing order. Volunteer to Joel upon arrival.

Other things:

- 1) The novice categories will feature weekly awards (ribbons) for the first six finishers in each class. (Series awards will, as before, be awarded on a point basis)
- 2) ON MAY 22 we'll feature a team race in the age 17 and under novice category. The team race will happen concurrently with the regular event; riders competing for series prizes may also compete on the teams. Teams will consist of four riders, and may be formed on any basis. Teams must register with the clerk of the course in advance of the event (appropriate forms will be provided). Team standings will be computed on the basis of the combined times of the team's first three finishers.

A spectator guide will be available sometime next week. Check with your favorite bicycle shop. (cont)

COMPANION WANTED: Mark Johnson wants to hear from riders who are interested in riding to Mackinac Bridge or vicinity over Easter Break. Call him at 685-6529.

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MATERIALS NEEDED FOR SPRING VALLEY RACES

Stopwatches
sign makers
walkie talkies
crash helmet for loan
portable chalkboards.

Other suggestions are welcome; if you have something useful, bring it to the event. Anyone able to provide any of the listed materials please contact Joel at 349-3094. Many thanks.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED: For MAY 23 Picnic Coordinator. Probably the easiest job we'll recruit this year; NEEDED IMMEDIATELY Duties: 1) Decide picnic menu. 2) Determine Cost, per picnicker, of menu. 3) Establish reservation system for picnickers (and probably administer reservations at races) 4) Purchase picnic materials, and make sure everything works out. Call Joel 349-3094 today.

FOUR LAKES REPORT: All members have seen the flyer, they should be in local bike shops, by April 7. Medals will be given for the 7 awards, they are being engraved now. Posters are in process. On April 18 will you please take one for your grocery store? We need some help at the registration desk (4 hours would be wonderful). Sag wagon arrangements still unsettled.

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EFFECTIVE CYCLING CLASS: is still one. the list of needed items will be delayed another month because this newsletter is long enough already. If interested in the course enroll through Portage Parks.

Sweep riders still needed. Call Joel 349-3094.

NOTE FROM JOEL ON STATE USCF MEETING.

Michigan USCF Rep Doug Croft held a pre-season meeting near Detroit on Tuesday, March 22. The purposes, in order of apparent importance, were:

- 1) to arrange the racing calendar and negotiate conflicts;
- 2) to permit Croft to make announcements, and those in attendance to ask questions;
- 3) to allow Wolverine Sport Club's Mike Walden to make political statements;
- 4) to permit some discussion; and
- 5) to get permission to initiate some programs from those effected.

Incidental to these intentions, were other people's announcements and a certain amount of (essentially political) caucussing.

The racing calendar is included with this newsletter. Topics discussed included certification of officials, categorization of riders, restructuring the USCF, and Madison Velodrome's Board Track. Everyone was concerned about the quality of officials, and the inadequacies of the existing certification program. An apprenticeship program is being implemented.

Croft will experiment this year with a rider classification system which differs for road and track. Walden wants to restructure both the national and state USCF. The board track announcements pertained to planned events open dates, and qualifications of riders; they've been incorporated in the calendar. State championship dates and locations were announced. Croft recommended that we all take up cross country skiing next winter.

Two meetings were scheduled, both at Dorais Velodrome. The first on May 15 (unfortunately one of our race dates) will be for active and prospective race officials. The second, on June 4, will be for all USCF members and clubs, and will deal with state championship arrangements and other things.

After the meeting we had a pleasant chat with Mike Walden about political things, and agreed to work together on some common problems.

KBC was represented by Joel Dinda and Pat Florian, who both thought the eleven hour evening well spent.

This is an invitation. The riding season's at hand, and we'll soon be offering a full slate of weekly tours. When you've retrieved your bike from winter storage, had the wheels trued, adjusted the derailleurs, and therwise restored it to tune, come out and join in. If you've ridden with the club before, we want to continue the friendship. If you've not, we'd certainly like to get acquainted.

ABOUT KBC'S RIDES

There's no such critter as a typical KBC tour. Our ride leaders have different characters and differing abilities, which (naturally) their rides reflect. KBC tours range in length from ten miles to about a hundred, in pace from leisurely rambles to near races, in style from informal explorations to major promotions, and in terrain from billiard-table flat to treacherously hilly.

The key to ride selection is the ride schedule. Since we don't have "typical" rides, ride descriptions include lots of detail. We publish the following information in the newsletter: Starting place, departure time, estimated distance to be traveled, estimated time to complete, and terrain. From this information you'll be able to estimate the pace at which the leader intends to ride, and the difficulty of the tour. If the leader wishes, the newsletter also contains additional description--interesting features, stopping places, exceptional scenery, or whatever. In case more information is desired, we conclude with the leader's name and phone.

You ought, with all that information, to be able to decide whether a tour suits your tastes and abilities. When you find a suitable tour, come out and ride. The intention's not competition. We chat, we watch birds, we inspect flowers.

No rider need ride alone, unless by intention. Most KBC tours split into groups of roughly similar ability. The hard riders charge away, while the more leisurely riders amble along and enjoy the scenery. The club's membership includes a few very strong riders, and another few who are quite weak. Both extremes are represented at most rides. On some of the more challenging rides, riders who are inexperienced or lacking in endurance will be small in number and should be prepared to ride alone. It is usually our practice to furnish each rider with a map of the day's tour. Whenever there is a doubt about the ride's suitability, call the ride leader.

A few words about equipment. Expensive gear is a luxury. Inexpensive bicycles and cut off bluejeans are welcome. While some of us wear funny clothes, and some ride fancy bikes, neither clothes nor bicycles much matter. We recommend shorts, water bottles, and cycling gloves. Elsewise, recreational bicycling is primarily social.

Riders are encouraged to bring a spare tube and the tools necessary for minor adjustments and repairs.

THE MILEAGE PROGRAM

The mileage program is a club effort to recognize members who participate in club tours. All KBC members are automatically enrolled in the program, and any member who accumulates five hundred or more miles on approved tours will receive recognition at the annual KBC Christmas party.

The prizes are patches. Riders who achieve 500 or more miles on approved rides will receive a five hundred mile patch, those with 1000 or more a thousand mile patch, and so on in 500 mile increments. Approved rides include all KBC tours and centuries during 1977 (races and training activities excluded), and any other club's 1977 tour for which the member establishes participation. All members will be issued log sheets. Responsibility for establishing participation will rest primarily with the rider.

Questions should be addressed to the road captain.

ON LEADING RIDES

Ride leaders play a key role in our ride program. There's room in the monthly ride schedule for any reasonable proposal, and often, as well, for completely unreason-

able notions. We have no set repertoire of tours, and we impose few restrictions on the development of rides.

What we expect of a ride leader is an acceptable tour routing. Ride leaders have no special talents, are not specially trained, and require no great experience. The necessary elements are an idea and a map. Completely new rides ought to be scouted by bicycle, as unexpected difficulties sometimes develop.

Creativity is encouraged. Share your favorite rides. Pen enticing ride descriptions. Develop programs intended for specific styles of riders. Devise ways to accommodate riders of differing talent, strength, or experience. Seek out interesting scenery, enchanting restaurants, unusual destinations.

During the tour, responsibility for the satisfactory, pleasant, and safe conduct of the ride is shared among the more experienced riders. The day's ride leader is occasionally required to make decisions about alternative routings, resting points, weather conditions, and the like, since 1) someone has to be in charge, and 2) the leader is presumed to be familiar with the local roads. All other responsibilities are shared.

A few guidelines: Starting points require sufficient parking for anticipated participation. Busy roads must be avoided. Maps should be provided (the club will reimburse reproduction expenses). Resting/gathering points, if any, should be made plain to all participants, either by marking the tour's map or by (loud) announcement. The return route ought to be different from the trip out.

The following information is required for the newsletter ride schedule: 1) Starting place. 2) Starting time. 3) Approximate length of the tour, in miles. 4) Estimated time to complete the tour, in hours. A characterization of the terrain. You may, if you wish, give the tour a name and/or include some descriptive comments.

We will, this summer, offer rides on Saturdays and Sundays, on Mondays (intended for hard riders), and on Thursdays (short and leisurely rides; inexperienced riders will not be extended). This schedule is not intended to prevent leaders from developing tours on other weekdays. Holidays, especially, are appropriate opportunities. Some weekday morn would be an interesting experiment.

Our usual practice has been to accept volunteers who phone before the monthly meeting, to recruit leaders from those attending the general meeting, then to fill the gaps remaining in the schedule by telephoning members who regularly attend club tours.

Ride leaders are required to return a report to the road captain after the tour. The appropriate form will be mailed or otherwise delivered to the leader before the start of the ride.

RIDE LEADER APPRECIATION PROGRAM

Recognizing the importance of KBC's ride leaders, we've instituted a contest. The contest has several aims. One is to encourage more riders to lead tours. Another is to improve the quality of the ride program. A third is to reward those leaders who consistently attract riders to their tours.

A brief summary of the rules: The basic calculation is average attendance at rides. Only rides from April through October will be considered. Certain categories of rides—LAW holiday patch rides, for instance—are excluded from these calculations. And leaders with fewer than seven eligible rides—about one a month, though they need not be so distributed—are unlikely to win the contest.

Full rules were published in February's newsletter. If you'd like a copy, contact the road captain.

Riders interested in participating in the program should start planning rides. An analysis of last year's ride schedule—something you might find useful—is available from Joel, for those interested. Experience shows that packaging—attractive description, interesting destination, etc.—is important, and that distance traveled is not.

KALAMAZOO BICYCLE CLUB APRIL RIDE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY APRIL 1: APRIL FOLLISHNESS: 8 PM, Ramona Park, (Sprinkle & Long Lake in Portage). Flat, 10-12 miles. Let's celebrate the arrival of the new riding season by circumnavigating Long Lake. LIGHTS AND REFLECTORS NECESSARY. Invite your friends. Joel Dinda 349-3094

SATURDAY APRIL 2: 9:30 from Gull Lake High School (on M-89 1/2 mile east of Richland) 16 miles around Gull Lake with a few small hills, 1 1/2-2 hours, Wayne Fisher,

SUNDAY APRIL 3: FARM SURVEY I: Each month a ride on the same course to survey how the crops and other flora/ fauna are doing. 3 PM, Pavilion Township Hall, (Q & 29th) 15-20 miles, 2-2 1/2 hours; Jini Caruso, 3810135.

SATURDAY APRIL 9: 9:30 a.m. from commuter parking lot at D Ave & 131, 15 miles, 2 hills, 1 1/2-2 hours, Del Bassett, 628-2774

SUNDAY APRIL 10 EASTER PATCH RIDE: 3PM. Paddy Miller Woods (Miller Rd. & Factory St, park on Factory) 20-25 miles to Galesburg & Comstock, fairly hilly, 3 hours. Dick Dinda 349-3094. RIDE FREE, LAW Patches \$1.00.

SATURDAY APRIL 16, 9:30 am, Oshtemo Harding's, 15-miles, some hills; 1 1/2-2 hours, Debbie Dinda 349-3094.

SUNDAY APRIL 17, 2:30 pm. KVCC (north east corner parking lot) 16-18 miles, rolling terrain, 2 hours. Alvin H lmes, 349-3546.

SATURDAY APRIL 23: SPRING VALLEY ROAD RACE SERIES III 10 am-3 pm, Spring Valley Park. Classes for novice and licensed riders. Joel Dinda, 349-3094

SUNDAY APRIL 24, 2:pm. Oshtemo Harding's, to Mattawan, 17-20 miles. rolling terrain. Jeff Smith 349-7490.

SATURDAY APRIL 30 SPRING VALLEY ROAD RACE SERIES III, 10 am-3 pm Spring Valley Park. Classes for novice and licensed riders. Joel Dinda, 349-3094.

SUNDAY MAY 1, 1 pm. Lexington Green School (Milham Road just off Sprinkle) 2 rides. One about 40 miles in 4 hours to Climax, and near Fulton; the second tour 25 miles in 3 hours. Both routes are flat. With luck we'll meet at Scotts Mill Park sometime between 2:30 and 3:00. Bring a snack. Joel Dinda 349-3094.

SATURDAY MAY 7 FOUR LAKES BICYCLE TOUR. Jini Caruso 381-0135.

SUNDAY May 8, Four Lakes Bicycle Tour Sag Wagon Charter??

OUT OF TOWN: NEAR BY: April 23, (Sat). Impression 5 Museum Bike-a-thon. Lansing Mich. Contact Tri County Bicycle Association. for information. Impression 5 is a touring exhibit from the Smithsonian.

Sunday, April 24. FAST-R (First Annual Spring Tandem Rally) Lansing Mich. (details LAW Bulletin)

May 21 Battle Creek Bike-athon. May 21-22 Belle Isle Marathon, Detroit. Details for both in, LAW Bulletin)

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April 23-24 Tour of Collingwood/ Orangeville ONT. RIOT (Rural Illinois Observation Tour) Centralia ILL./Spring Tour Aurora ILL. (details in LAW Bulletin)

Jini Caruso is willing to read you the details from her LAW Bulletin if you want them. Call 381-0135.